

**The City of Belleview**

5343 SE Abshier Blvd.

Belleview, FL 34420

**Contact Information:** Robert Vass**Phone:** (352) 245 – 7021. Ext. 2122**Email:** [rvass@belleviewfl.org](mailto:rvass@belleviewfl.org)**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Light Up Lake Lillian Shines Bright**

Belleview, FL – The City of Belleview is pleased to share that this year's Light Up Lake Lillian, held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, was a great success, bringing together thousands of attendees for an unforgettable day of holiday joy, community spirit, and festive fun. From family-friendly activities to heartwarming performances and delectable food, the event captured the magic of the season.

The event's schedule provided something for everyone, with highlights that included:

1. **Candy Cane Crawl:** Attendees participated in this interactive activity, visiting vendor booths to collect stamps for raffle entries. Three lucky winners were awarded Family Fun Night Baskets with cozy fleece throw blankets, popular board games like *Candy Land* and *Trouble*, holiday-themed party supplies, hot cocoa mix, brownie mix, popcorn, a \$50 Walmart gift card, and more.
2. **Ornament Making:** Hosted by the Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club, several hundred families and friends came together to create personalized ornaments that will be cherished for years to come.
3. **Cookie Decorating:** Courtesy of Church on the Hill, attendees of all ages enjoyed designing over 700 cookies to take home—or enjoy on the spot!
4. **Live Performances:** The event's entertainment lineup brought smiles and holiday cheer throughout the day. In addition to the incredible DJ Wolverine, guests enjoyed:
  1. A dance showcase by The Arts District
  2. A selection of holiday music performed by BreadBreakers Inc. and the Souls Harbor Church Choir
  3. Ending with a full musical showcase by the Belleview Middle School Panther Choir, Belleview High School Chamber Singers, and Concert Choir
5. **Santa Meet & Greet:** Santa Claus delighted children and families, spreading holiday cheer with every photo and chat.
6. **Vendor Marketplace:** Over 60 artisans, businesses, and organizations offered unique gifts, crafts, and holiday goods, making it a must-visit shopping destination.
7. **Family Activities:** Inflatable games, face painting, and other kid-friendly attractions ensured that young attendees stayed engaged and entertained throughout the day.

Food trucks offering mouthwatering options added another layer of enjoyment to the event. Guests indulged in delicious dishes and sweet treats from:

1. Billy's Cheesesteaks
2. Backstage Grill
3. Weirsdale Winery
4. Papa John's Pizza
5. Chococups (chocolate covered strawberries)
6. Kona Ice
7. Poppin N Shakin (kettle corn and lemonade)
8. Royal Hibachi

The highlight of the evening was the Lighting Ceremony at 6 PM, where Lake Lillian was illuminated with thousands of twinkling lights, casting a glow over the park and creating a moment of shared holiday spirit.

“This year’s Light Up Lake Lillian was nothing short of magical,” said Robert Vass, Events and Promotions Manager for the City of Bellevue. “The energy, the smiles, and the sense of community were palpable throughout the day. Watching families create ornaments together, seeing the joy on kids’ faces as they met Santa, and hearing the incredible talent from community performers made it a truly special day. Our team worked hard to make this event memorable, and I couldn’t be prouder of the way our community came together to celebrate the season.”

Bellevue Mayor Christine Dobkowski added, “Light Up Lake Lillian embodies the heart of what makes our city so special. It’s not just about the lights or the activities—it’s about creating moments that bring us together as a community. This event is a testament to the creativity, generosity and magic of Bellevue, and I’m so grateful to everyone who attended, participated, and supported this event.”

City Administrator Sandi McKamey emphasized the importance of community events like this, saying, “Light Up Lake Lillian is more than a celebration; it’s an opportunity for us to connect, support one another, and build lasting memories. The smiles on faces young and old, the incredible performances, and the shared moments of joy are what make Bellevue such a special place to live and work. We’re proud to host events that reflect the warmth and spirit of our city.”

The City of Bellevue extends its deepest thanks to the event’s sponsors for their support in making Light Up Lake Lillian a reality. This year’s sponsors included:

1. Gary Yeomans Ford Villages – title sponsor
2. Fix-It Tek and Peek’s Printing & Design
3. Hardee’s Bellevue
4. Mid-Florida Credit Union
5. Bradley Blessing State Farm Insurance
6. Orange Blossom Garden Lions Club of Lady Lake
7. The Church on the Hill
8. Downtown Underground

“Our sponsors are the backbone of this event,” said Vass. “Their generosity and commitment to Bellevue allow us to create events that bring joy and connection to our community. We can’t thank them enough for helping us make Light Up Lake Lillian a successful night for the community to enjoy together.”

The City of Bellevue is already planning next year’s Light Up Lake Lillian and looks forward to making it even more spectacular. In the meantime, residents can look forward to a variety of other exciting community events throughout the year starting with the first Friday Foodie Fest of the 2025 season on Friday, January 17, 2025 at Lake Lillian. For more information on events, follow the City of Bellevue on Facebook/Instagram (@cityofbellevue).